

What is claimed is:

1. A cutting member comprising WC, two or more solid solutions of WC and compounds selected from carbides, nitrides and carbonitrides of metals of the groups 4a, 5a and 6a in the Periodic Table, and at least one metal of the iron group, wherein at least one of the two or more solid solutions is a solid solution having a high Nb or Zr content.

2. The cutting member according to claim 1, wherein the solid solution having a high Nb or Zr content is a solid solution having a peak intensity of Nb or Zr, which is more than 50% of a peak intensity of W, in energy-dispersive X-ray diffraction.

3. The cutting member according to claim 1, wherein an area ratio of the solid solution having a high Nb or Zr content to the whole solid solution structure is 50% or less.

4. The cutting member according to claim 1, wherein the two or more solid solutions have an average grain size of 5  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.

5. The cutting member according to claim 1, wherein a single- or multi-coating layer is formed on the surface.

6. The cutting member according to claim 5, wherein the single- or multi-coating layer comprises at least one selected from MC, MN, MCN, TiAlN, ZrO<sub>2</sub> and Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, provided that "M" denotes a metal of the group 4a, 5a or 6a in the Periodic Table, and MC, MN and MCN denote carbide, nitride

and carbonitride of the metal, respectively.

7. The cutting member according to claim 6, wherein the coating layer comprises at least one selected from TiC, TiN and TiCN.

5           8. A method for cutting metal, which comprises a step for cutting metal with the cutting material according to claim 1.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein said metal is hardly machinable metal.

10           10. The method according to claim 9, wherein said hardly machinable metal is stainless steel.

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